

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mallow**

Ref: **518**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **187**

Category: **E**

Date: **26/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	29	27
Landscaping	40	23	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	12
Litter Control	40	21	18
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	187	178

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Tidy Towns committee of 20 people is a reasonable membership. Working with local residents associations, local business interests and local authorities is a sensible approach to achieving goals in Mallow. Although Mallow has increased its score by nine this year, an overall plan of all projects envisaged over the next five years would be very useful at this stage. This approach is really a requirement for making sufficient progress in the competition to compete for top honours. The exercise would help focus all interested parties on deciding the committee's overall objectives over the next, say, five years, and, setting targets for achieving these. Each year, the committee would then be in a position to assess the progress made in the previous twelve months, and identify the issues to be addressed in the forthcoming year. This would also be extremely beneficial for adjudication purposes. (If such a plan has been submitted before, it would be in order to submit it with revisions at application stage each year.)

The Built Environment:

Mallow has a rich variety of buildings within and around the town. The landmark buildings continue to look well, such as the impressive clock house, court house, the Spa House, town hall, railway station, St. Mary's and St James's Churches. The façade of the streets are also very important and there is a very good standard of presentation of buildings along the streets with many fine examples of well-painted and structured premises. The numbers that still require attention become more noticeable as others improve their standards. In the main street there are a number of building

developments and renovations currently in progress. These are disruptive at present and distort the overall appearance of the street. The Dairygold premises occupy a considerable space, the entrance and the appearances of this from the roads nearby is well screened by trees and hedging. The three-storied terraced houses close to the main Dairygold premises are very attractive and hopefully will be preserved in their original state. Similarly, the terraces opposite the Spa House on entry to the town are exceptional. Schools play a major part in the built environment. St. Patrick's National School is an important building. The Patrician Academy is splendid amid its fine grounds and the new school being built will be followed with interest. The three-storied buildings in William O'Brien Street leading to the courthouse are a fine example of a style of building. The many carparks through the town now have opened up the appearance of the backs of buildings, which is often not the most attractive scene. Dealing with this difficulty presents a challenge. The carpark area to the back of the Hibernian Hotel has been well utilised and other buildings have been developed in and around this space such as the garda station.

Landscaping:

The town park presents a great opportunity for strolling and sports activities. The combination of mature and maturing trees and extensive grass and path network makes this park a very pleasant place. Perhaps a part of this park could be developed with a more colourful garden type of planting to create a particular focus. The accessibility of the park to the riverside could also be worked on. The grounds of the Catholic church in the main street are very well presented and represent an important green space within the town centre. Tree planting at the Hibernian Conference and Leisure Centre behind the hotel are a welcome feature. The grounds of the Mallow Castle and the Spa Park are also important green spaces within the town. The two roundabouts were very much admired. The Killarney roundabout is particularly attractive with the sculpture, grotto and ancillary landscaping at each segment of the converging roads. The Limerick roundabout offers a different form of interest, which helps create a separate identity for the two roundabouts. The gardens of the Patrician Academy are colourful and well kept. Many colourful containerised displays introduce summer colour to the town. The hanging baskets at the railway station create a very attractive picture.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riversides offer interesting wild life observation opportunities. Help with projects in this area should be sought from the local schools, naturalists' field clubs, environmental bodies and, of course, the Tidy Towns Handbook. It appears that better use and access could be made of riverside walks and general appreciation of the vast resource present. Both carparks at the Hibernian Hotel and at Muddy Hill have amounts of red valerian growing from the rocks, which is an attractive wild plant.

Litter Control:

Litter presents some difficulties in Mallow. An amount of litter was observed in a number of locations. Mallow is a large town and the amount of litter that has to be dealt with on a daily basis is probably very large. Continued campaigning and initiatives are needed to change people's attitude to litter disposal and encourage a litter-free town. The reduced number of plastic bags is having a beneficial result in all towns and villages. The litterbins provided in the main street are attractive.

Tidiness:

Mallow is generally a well-ordered and tidy town. The building developments currently underway do cause some disruption and this is particularly true in the main street where four projects are currently in progress. This is short term and hopefully a better image will result when these are completed. The appearance of the livestock mart area is very gray and looks a little uncared for. This may be entirely due to the structural appearance. The area leading to Muddy Hill, near the well-painted Mallow Electrical Wholesales Ltd, is untidy, particularly the old garage doors and surrounds.

Residential Areas:

The many residential areas surrounding Mallow are generally well tended. Many of the housing states on the Mill Road are attractively presented, including the semi-detached and apartment styles of Willis Flats. Pearce and Sandfield Terrace houses look well. The appearance of housing estates depend on two aspects; firstly, the manner in which individual houses and gardens are maintained and secondly the appearance of entrance greens and open spaces within the estates. Encouragement to residents associations can help greatly in achieving an upgrading of the appearances of estates. Tree planting on open greens offers the opportunity to plant large style trees such as Ash, Chestnut, Sycamore and Lime, trees that could not be planted within the confines of small gardens. These large trees form the fabric of the surroundings of Mallow and such plantings are important for future generations to enjoy. The new housing at Castle View and the granary are attractive.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are well cared for. The Killarney Road is especially attractive and the beautifully presented picnic areas by the side of the road are a lovely asset. Hedging on the roads between the two roundabouts softens the harshness of the roads and surrounding buildings. The carparks are well placed with easy access within the town. The carpark by the swimming pool has very well tree planted islands.

General Impression:

Mallow offers a wide range of interests. Developments have been progressing well over the years. The enormous traffic flow places pressures on the town. Restriction of some parts of the main streets for pedestrians only should be considered for at least part of the day. Opportunities for greater utilisation of the riversides should be a prominent consideration in future planning.